TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 1999

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779
V. PRES.: Ozzie Osband N4SCY 407-LIFTOFF
SECRETARY: Becky Lee KF4HTB 267-9375
TREASURER: Becky Lee KF4HTB 267-9375

CLUB INFORMATION

TARC MEETINGS :	**Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs at Jaycee Building.**
TARC NETS:	**VIP - Thursdays at 1000 hrs on 146.910**
	FRIENDSHIP - Thursdays at 1830 hrs. on146.910
	MOSQUITO - Wednesdays at 1900 hrs on 28.333
TARC REPEATERS:	**VHF - 146.910 and146.970. UHF 444.150**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

The March 27 tail gate/yard sale was a huge success. I believe all the TARC members, as well as our guests, were well pleased. The tail gate area had about 60 vehicles. The weather man did good for us.

Around daylight the gang showed up and went to work. The parking crew did good on getting the vehicles lined up. The food crew did a terrific job and netted some coins for the club. On Friday, the layout crew worked to make the place orderly (which it was). Our thanks to Ken, KD4HNW for the Port-A-John.

There has been some talk of having another tail gate around August. I would like some input and thoughts on this from you guys and girls.

See you at the April 27 meeting. 73'a

A STORY TO LIVE BY

By Ann Wells

My brother-in-law opened the bottom drawer of my sister's bureau and lifted out a tissue-wrapped package.

"This," he said, "is not a slip. This is lingerie." He discarded the tissue and handed me the slip. It was exquisite; silk, handmade and trimmed with a cobweb of lace. The price tag with an astronomical figure on it was still attached. "Jan bought this the first time we went to New York, at least 8 or 9 years ago. She never wore it. She was saving it for a special occasion. Well, I guess this is the occasion." He took the slip from me and put it on the bed with the other clothes we were taking to the mortician. His hands lingered on the soft material for a moment, than he slammed the drawer shit and turned to me. "Don't ever save anything for a special occasion. Every day you're alive is a special occasion."....

SEE PAGE 2

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

APR. 2 KB3GK JOHN MUNSEY
APR. 2 000000 IRA MORRIS, JR.
APR. 3 AA4FY NORM FOSTER
APR. 4 KC4VMP JIM CLARK
APR. 6 KS4BD DARWIN McCOMBS
APR. 6 KD4WLE SEAN HAGA
APR. 8 KF4FEY PENNY COPELAND
APR. 8 KE4HDF ANGIE DiMEO
APR. 10 KC4VWA ETHEL GRINER
APR. 10 KF4UN DAVE POST
APR. 13 KF4LU GWEN COLVIN
APR. 13 KE4YQF MARY LORENZI
APR. 23 W4BME JOHN LINK
APR. 23 KT4CQ WILLIAM SIMANO
APR. 30 KB4RBU VERN BAUER
APR. 30 KD4LGI MIKE JACOBSON

FROM PAGE 1....

I remembered those words through the funeral and the days that followed when I helped him and my niece attend to all the sad chores that follow an unexpected death. I thought about them on the plane returning to California from the midwestern town where my sister's family lives. I thought about all the things that she had done without realizing that they were special.

I'm still thinking about his words, and they've changed my life. I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting on the deck and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. I'm spending more time with my family and friends and less time in committee meetings. Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experience to savor, not endure. I'm trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them.

I'm not "saving" anything. We use our good china and crystal for every special event - such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped, the first camellia blossom.

"Someday" and "one of these days" are losing their grip on my vocabulary. If it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now. I'm not sure what my sister would have done had she known that she wouldn't be here for the tomorrow we all take for granted. I think she would have called family members and a few close friends. She might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles. I like to think she would have gone out for a Chinese dinner, her favorite food. I'm guessing. I'll never know.

It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew that my hours were limited. Angry because I put off seeing good friends whom I was going to get in touch with - someday. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write - one of these days. Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband and daughter often enough how much I truly love them. I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives. And every morning when I open my eyes, I tell myself that it is special. Every day, every minute, every breath truly is....a gift.

MY FREQUENCY

From 4/99 QST
Correspondence

(From a message scribbled on the back of a QSL card.)

You may not have realized it, but you were calling CQ on **my frequency.** I had been listening on this frequency for five hours. It was nice and quiet during my monitoring activity. I had been doing a good job until you came along and called CQ on **my frequency.** How discourteous of you. When you asked, "Is this frequency in use?" I held my breath hoping that an alert passerby would spare me from having to say "Yes." You would have taken your CQ elsewhere and my life would have returned to normal. Then, horror of horrors, someone answered your CQ. All of this activity was violating **my frequency.**

I thought I was going to be ill. How can someone be so rude as to get on **my frequency** and use it in such a flagrant fashion? I felt like I had been personally violated. After suffering for days from the stress and trauma, I finally had to seek professional help.

Our family doctor determined that my trauma was being caused by an emotional disorder. He diagnosed the illness as apathy complicated by the need to, as he put it, "get a life." The doctor also told me that this condition was surprisingly common among hams these days. He prescribed weeks of therapy to help me remember why I had worked so hard to earn my license in the first place. It is a grueling, painful regimen of trying new modes of operating, participating in club events and learning new concepts. I'm making steady progress and someday hope to actually be able to answer those who call on **my frequency.**

Nick Sues, W7ZMD, Phoenix, AR.

"59" IS MEANINGLESS

Last December I had a great time participating in the ARRL 10-Meter contest. Band conditions were excellent. I have only one complaint/suggestion: Let's drop signal reports from contests. I would wager that 99.9% of signal reports in the contest were 59. Let me give you an example:

Station A: The VE3 station. Thanks for coming back. What's your call again?
Me: VE3JBU
Station A: Again?
Me: VE3JBU
Station A: Get it VE3JBU.. What's my report?
Me: 59 Ontario
Station A: Again?
Me: 59 Ontario
Station A: Was that Ontario?
Me: QSL
Station A: Did you say Ontario?
Me: Roger, roger. Ontario.
Station A: Okay! Got it! 59 Ontario. You're also 59 Florida.

Really? I think a 1 and 1 would have been more accurate than a 5 and 9. Let's encourage honesty by dropping signal RS(T) signal reports during contests and using only serial numbers.

Herschell Sax, VE3JBU, Ouawa, Ontario, Canada

TEMPERANCE

Besides the noble art of getting things done, there is the noble art of leaving things undone. The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of nonessentials

SAVE-A-BATTERY, SAVE $40

From 4/99 QST Hints & Kinks

After a couple of NiCd battery packs (#19-300) for my Radio Shack HXT-202 failed prematurely with a shorted cell, I decided it was time to dig into a pack. Maybe a failure analysis would reveal a way to save it. I've been dealing with NiCds for a long time, so I recognize a hopeless case when I see one. Conversely, if a $40 pack can be saved, then I say, "Let's do it!"

The indication of a pack failure is a blank screen with the radio turned on. The pack will not take a charge. To ascertain if your project has any hope of success, measure the voltage between the plate on top and the positive screw terminal on the pack. If it measures a constant 6 V or so, even after a standard charge, you probably have a shorted or dead cell. (Five cells x 1.2 V = 6 V.)

Let's proceed through a repair, and you will see that it's worth a try if you possess minimal soldering experience. You'll need a 40 W chisel-tip iron, rosin-core solder, ordinary tools found around your shack, a voltmeter, a roll of good electrical tape such as Scotch #33 or #88 and replacement cell(s) with solder tabs on them - Radio Shack #23-191. They're $6.00 for two; save the second one for another pack that's bound to go soon.

Locate a small, covered plastic container or bag to hold the six small - very small - very special metric screws that hold the case together. Pay close attention to these little devils. The top, or "tension plate," has three self-tapping screws and one machine screw. The case bottom has two machine screws. To be sure that you replace all screws in their proper positions, make a drawing as you remove them. Store the screws carefully.

Now lift up the tension plate and split the case in to its halves. This will give you access to the shrink-wrapped six-cell pack. Measure the voltage on each cell to locate the bad guy; the cell at 0 V. Don't attempt this repair if the NiCds don't have solder tabs on them; do not solder directly to a cell.

Now comes the surgery. Slit the shrink-wrap covering and discard it. The pack will not fall apart because the cells are interconnected with battery straps. Peel back the straps on the positive electrode and negative case of the defective cell. Two resistance welds attach each strap to the cell. Remove the cell by pulling it out of the pack and replace it with a new solder-tabbed Radio Shack NiCd cell (with the proper polarity).

Orient the cell so that its straps line up with the straps on its neighbors in the pack, but you do have some leeway. The cells in the packs are series connected. You will connect the strap from the case (negative) of the old, good cell to the positive-electrode tab of the new cell. Then connect the strap from the case (negative) of the new cell to the positive electrode of another old, good cell. Solder strap-to-strap only and make sure that the straps from positive electrodes clear the case. Apply the iron only long enough to make a solid solder connection between the straps.

Be careful handling the pack now; don't short-circuit any cells. Clean off excess flux with a cleaner; alcohol will do it. Finish the job by wrapping a layer of electrical tape all around the battery pack. Cover bare electrodes where you can and generally reproduce the original shrink sleeve, but allowing the original wiring to remain loose. There is a mysterious unlisted part "buried" among the cells that is probably a thermistor or heat-sensitive fuse. We will leave that be.

Position the pack in its case, squeeze the halves together and replace the tension plate with the three self-tapping screws and machine screw located in their proper positions. Install the two machine screws in the bottom of the case and "Viola" you've just saved yourself about $40. Check the voltage before you celebrate. It should

be about 7 V. Now for the difficult part. Don't install the pack and use the radio yet. Completely recharge the pack first! A fully charged pack should measure about 8.2 V for about an hour or so after a recharge and then slowly drop off.
Bud Meyer, K2PMA, Forest Hills, NY

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

From 4/99 QSL Technical Correspondence

Of late there seem to be a number of "weekend electricians" coming out of the woodwork - and most of them don't know what they are doing! (I happen to know one or two.) These do-it-yourselfers take chances and often knowingly don't adhere to the electrical codes. In addition to creating a hazardous condition, they fail to realize that should there ever be a fire and their "shortcut" is found, their insurance company may refuse to reimburse them for ensuing damage. In many cases, they do not!

In Amateur Radio circles, a common offense is tapping into a 30 A dryer line, an electric oven feed, or a 50 A range feed to deliver power to the ham shack for an amplifier. To tap into either is against the *National Electrical Code* (NEC), and the codes of all local building inspection departments with which I am familiar - this includes most of the cities and counties in the San Francisco Bay area. If one of those circuits is not being used for its intended purpose and is therefore available, an extension box of the proper type and size equipped with properly sized breakers, may be used as a small electrical-distribution panel to deliver power to an Amateur Radio station. Contact your local city or county building department; they'll provide you with the help you need in finding out the best way to do this. Those departments have the final say about electrical installations. The employees are there to protect and help, not hinder homeowners.

Using a home's electrical protective (safety) ground as a shack's station ground should be avoided at all costs. I have found situations in which a protective (safety) ground was as much as 10 V positive to the neutral wire. Such a condition is caused by static build-up, and there isn't much that can be done about that. Grounding a protective ground at more than one point is asking for trouble with ground loops.

Houses in some communities are required to have the green (or bare) wire attached to the individual outlet. In other communities, all that is required is that the ground wire be connected to the outlet box - if the box is metallic. If the outlet box is nonmetallic (many plastic boxes are in use today), the ground wire must be connected to the individual outlet. Many contractors use plastic outlet (and other) boxes with fair success. Personally, I don't care for them because the outlet-mounting screws sometimes strip and don't hold properly. It is most difficult to replace such an outlet/switch box in an existing wall.

In plating shops, where many chemicals are used, plastic conduit is mandatory and the ground wire must be connected to each outlet. In most laboratories, metal conduit is usually called for, sometimes rigid pipe and other times, electrical metallic tubing and metal boxes. As a rule, grounds there must be connected directly to each outlet. With the usual three wire with ground, 120 V outlet, the outlet yoke is common to the green grounding screw.

For quite a few years, many communities have required the service neutral bus be connected beneath a house's foundation, or to a ground rod driven into the soil. This practice is known as a "Eufort ground." Water pipe grounding is rarely used nowadays because most outdoor water service pipe is plastic.

Over the years, I have often seen instances in which a light in one room brightens when a light in another part of the house is turned off. This is a most dangerous condition, and the electrical utility company, or an electrical contractor, should be called to inspect the

condition as soon as possible. Do not attempt to fix this situation yourself! Somewhere, the ground system has broken down; trying to repair it without the proper equipment can result in injury or death. To be exact, the grounding system at the distribution step-down transformer has opened and the house grounding system has also opened. Should you get between the ground wire and the ground connection (or ground rod), you become the circuit-completing conductor!

All houses being built today should have at least a 200 A service. With so many electrical appliances on the market (and more will come), it doesn't take long to overload a lower amperage service.

One person I know has a home at a summer resort. The air conditioner there blew fuses when it started. After some checking, I discovered that the contractor had used 40 A fuses, because the running current of the motor was slightly less than that value. What the contractor had forgotten (or did not know) is that the starting current of a motor can momentarily exceed the running current by a factor of seven or more, depending on the pressure in the system when the motor starts. I installed 50 A fuses, and to my knowledge, the system has never acted up since.

I spent over 55 years troubleshooting, examining and building installations. During many of those years I found engineers had tried different (illegal) methods of doing their jobs. I performed electrical work on many different projects, including the building maintaining and operation of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) at Menlo Park, CA. I retired from the Accelerator at the end of 1981, and try to keep myself up to date on current NEC changes.

Jack G. Hollenbeck, W6JIC,
Sonora, CA

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike, W4EPU

HOW UGLY IS UGLY?

Not since the leisure suit days has manufacturers of personal attire put forth so much effort and stiff competition bent on seeing who can make the ugliest product.

I'm talking about the athletic shoes this time. And would you believe it? All of the biggies participate in the competition. i.e. Adidas, Converse, Nike, Reebok, etc.

The picture shown above is a typical example of just how ugly the shoes can be. You can only see the top in this picture. It don't tell the whole story. You should see the sole. The shape and position of the treads look awful.

And you know what? The ugliness is directly proportional to the cost. If you want expensive shoes, pick out the most horrible looking pair you can find. You will be talking big bucks.

Other than that, there is not a whole lot that can be written about this subject. It is simply a situation in which a picture is worth a lot of words.

73s es 88s

FEBRUARY MINUTES

By Becky Lee, KF4HTB

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; a moment of silent remembrance and then the introduction of members and guests.

The upcoming March 27 tail gate/flea market was discussed, and it was decided to announce it on the Swap Shop radio program. Everyone was urged to bring garage sale items as well as radio related items and set up.

The new repeater will soon be up and running. The base is ready to pour. The repeater will be of tremendous benefit to the Mims, Scottsmoor and Oak Hill areas

Bud, K4CWG expressed his sorrow at the loss of club member Maurice Gionet, KE4AGK

Ralph Hall, AE4LE told members to "think preparedness" for the upcoming hurricane season and other disasters that may occur in our area He updated the club on the evacuation centers. There were quite a few questions from the floor which Ralph answered. He also reminded the members that people needing help in evacuating, or having specific medical needs must register with County Emergency Management. Call them now at 631-1776.

Chris, K4ZZZ asked about the 2-meter kits that were to be gathered together for emergencies. Ralph said 5 units are ready

Ozzie, N4SCY asked for volunteers to man rest stops at the Diabetes Tour de Cure which will be held on May 2. Call him at 407-LIFT-OFF to volunteer.

Bill Eppley, W2SDB announced that the annual white elephant sale will be held at the next IRARC club meeting (April 1).

TREASURERS REPORT

By Becky Lee KF4HTB

Balance Forward From 1998	$6634.75
Deposits Year to Date	1938.00
TOTAL INCOME	**8572.75**
Expenditures	1388.95
BALANCE AS AT 2/28/99	**7183.80**
FEMA Escrow	1449.32
BALANCE-CLUB FUNDS	**$ 5734.48**

Pike Abell W4EPU thanked everyone who helped at the Run-for Life event.

Les Griner, K4SJC talked about new emergency equipment that would enhance the 91 repeater. Weather, warnings of severe weather, and barometer readings that will be activated by a touch tone button are among the enhancements. The club voted unanimously to purchase the equipment at a cost of approximately $1000.

Bud told the club how attentive Les has been in watching over Jack Siegal, W4AVP who is ill. He also urged everyone to study for the 5 WPM code test and upgrade before the new licensing rules are put into effect.

Jose, KC4VIO urged everyone to come out and help with parking, etc. at the tail gate/flea market.

Bud urged everyone to clean up and clear out everything left over from the sale.

Bill Eppley asked that any leftovers from the tail gate be donated to the IRARC white elephant sale.

Ozzie, N4SCY introduced 2 former Cape employees who told "war stories" of their working days at the Cape.

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

W0LRC C. COFFMAN
K4EGV CHARMAINE COFFMAN
AF4N WES WHITLEY

APRIL 15TH IS ALMOST HERE!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 245 (174 regular, 60 family, 11 honorary)

NEW MEMBERS:

KG4CEB ANTHONY HURKALA
KF4LPB ROBERT HAMMOND

RENEWALS:

00000 ANTHONY SINI
KE4AEB JO JORDAN
KE4MXF KAY JORDAN
N4AWX BRIAN VAN ALSTINE
KC4WZA JANET VAN ALSTINE
N2CTQ LOU GENCORNELLI
N2USO MARIE GENCORNELLI
WB4DXD BUCK TOMLINSON
KE4HJQ RON MORGAN
KF4JI CARL CHRISTIAN
KE4EJ SANDY WHITLEY
KB4RBU VERN BAUER
KC4TE GENE MANN
K2TNT GEORGE FISCHER
KF4UN DAVE POST
NE4XT BILL DIMEO
KE4HDF ANGIE DIMEO

HAMFESTS:

APR. 23/24 GAINESVILLE